Bishop D’Arcy blesses new St. Joseph Regional Medical Center Chapel

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MISHAWAKA — “Bless this altar built in the house of the church that it may ever be reserved for the sacrifice of Christ and stand forever at the table of the Lord where your people may find nourishment and strength.”

These words were proclaimed by Bishop John M. D’Arcy as part of the blessing of the altar at the new St. Joseph Regional Medical Center (SJRMC) in Our Lady of Fatima Chapel in Mishawaka on Dec. 6. An overflow crowd was in attendance for the chapel’s blessing ceremony.

During his homily, Bishop D’Arcy spoke of the mission of a Catholic hospital. “This beautiful hospital is dedicated to men and women restored and living in the likeness of God. What should mark this hospital is love for others standing in the midst of other great institutions of healing. Its distinguishing mark should always be bringing the love of Jesus Christ to every person who is ill. For Pope Benedict XVI has written that the church can no more neglect the ministry of charity, than it can neglect the sacraments or the word.”

The beautiful wood architecture in the chapel, which includes the altar, ambo and presider’s chair, were all designed by Holy Cross Father Herbert C. Yost. The darker part of the wood is American red gum with a veneer of maple. On the ambo is a bookholder that has two strong magnets so that after the word of God is read during Mass, the word can be seen in front of the ambo as a reminder of what has been proclaimed.

The rug beneath the altar was chosen to identify

Marian devotion is meaningful to Bishop Rhoades

The following is the first in a series of feature articles in Today’s Catholic to acquaint the people of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend with Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades.

HARRISBURG, Pa. — From the rosary being Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades’ favorite prayer to celebrating Mass at Our Lady of Guadalupe Shrine in Mexico, Marian devotion is central to the faith-life of the new bishop of Fort Wayne-South Bend.

Bishop Rhoades, meeting with Today’s Catholic at his offices in Harrisburg, Pa., said he was pleased to learn that the Blessed Mother is the patroness of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend under the title of the Immaculate Conception. Just weeks before he learned that he would be the new bishop of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, Bishop Rhoades had launched a Marian year in which over 4,000 people from the Diocese of
The parish-wide mission is an excellent method of evangelization

BISHOP JOHN M. D'ARCY

The parish mission and the new evangelization

“I have been in this parish 60 years, and this is the finest and best week in all that time.” The remarks of a woman to me after I closed the parish mission at St. Matthew’s co-Cathedral Parish.

I drove north on one of the first really wintry afternoons, and arrived just before 6 p.m. at St. Matthew Parish where I met a very encouraged Msgr. Mike Heintz and Father Jake Runyon. A delightful soup and sandwich with them, and Jim Fitzpatrick, our always devoted and able diocesan master of ceremonies.

To say I have suggested to Msgr. Mike that he have a parish-wide mission would be an understatement. I thought when he finally agreed on this, without any encouragement and with such obvious busyness, that Ginny Kohrman of our Office of Spiritual Development had given to his parishioners the structure, and his excellent committee followed the advice of the Office of Spiritual Development and implemented a full court press.

A phone bank, so that every parishioner receives a call

Advertising and signs. A babysitting component in the basement of the church, so that young parents can come. A letter to every parishioner. As a result, to Msgr. Mike’s delight and surprise, he told me there were 800 people there the first night. There were excellent speakers with Msgr. Bill Schooler, Father Jim Shafer and Father Bob Van Kempen; and it was my privilege to celebrate Mass and preach on the final night.

One night was devoted to the sacrament of penance, but there was also a night with exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. A full church spent 30 minutes in silent prayer in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament.

Not new in content, but new in arbor, new in method, and new in expression

That is how Pope John Paul II and Pope Paul VI described the new evangelization.

Each evening was recorded and put on the Internet with the newly ordained Father Jake Runyon taking care of such “expression and method.” I was especially pleased to see so many young couples make possible by the babysitting service. The parish-wide mission, if all aspects are implemented, is an excellent method of evangelization.

The character of the new evangelization is that it involves everybody — not just priests and religious, but the whole parish. In fact, as I told the pastor, the outreach and contact is the work of the laity. They are better at it than we are. Many of these do it for a living; and they know how to contact everyone and how to promote attendance.

There is a certain anonymity, which many people desire in returning to the practice of the faith after many years. A full church, individual confession, prayer and silence gives the atmosphere for a person to slip back quietly into the embrace of Christ and the church without much fanfare. It is usually the best way.

And evangelization to young adults

It was a joy this past week to celebrate Mass at IPFW. We do not have a large state university with tens of thousands of residents. However, IPFW is a full university with tens of thousands of resident students.

But we do have several smaller state schools, and IPFW in Fort Wayne has the beginnings of residential students. However, it is much more difficult at what is still largely a commuter school to make the contacts over a period of time with the young people. Nevertheless, we have been working on it for many years, and it is an obligation. I was able to respond to the invitation of Mary Glowaski and celebrate a noontime Mass at IPFW. There were about 50 students and several faculty members, including the assistant to the chancellor, Linda Buffa, and Bob Sedlimer, and other faculty members.

It was a joy to celebrate this Mass with the students, and to preach to them about Advent and Christmas. I stayed, joyfully, for pizza and sandwiches. The pizza was going on there, helped in great part by Mike Gibson who has served there for a number of years.

Plans were shared for some of the students to attend the March for Life in Washington in late January, as they have in the past. Mary Glowaski told me that the pro-life initiative is becoming many of these students. Another student presented plans for the next World Youth Day, which is to be held, I believe, in Madrid, Spain. Imagine that, in a public state school, plans are already underway for both the pro-life march and the World Youth Day, still a few years away. Also with us was the delicate Allie Smith, who is working with the young adults on the parish level in such events as Theology on Tap.

A task completed and a hidden monsignor

I am preparing to celebrate for the last time as your bishop our pastoral feast of the Immaculate Conception in the cathedral, also under the title of the Immaculate Conception. Two days later, I will be with our priests for a Day of Prayer and an opportunity to make a Christmas confession. Our speaker will be Bishop Carl Mengeling, originally a priest of the Diocese of Gary, and now bishop emeritus of Laredo.

Please note in another part of this newspaper some words about John Cavadini and the homily by Pope Benedict XVI.

I look forward to seeing you all next week.
WASHINGTON (CNS) — As a vote neared on a bipartisan abortion amendment to the Senate’s version of healthcare reform legislation, three leading U.S. bishops said the proposed revision “simply corrects ... grave departures from current federal policy.”

In a Dec. 7 letter to senators, the chairmen of three committees of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops threw their support behind an amendment to be offered that day by Sens. Ben Nelson, D-Neb.; Orrin Hatch, R-Utah; Robert Casey, D-Pa.; and five others.

The amendment would “keep in place the long-standing and widely supported federal policy against government funding of health coverage that includes elective abortions,” the bishops said, and is similar to one approved by the House in November before passage of its Affordable Health Care For America Act.

“Like that amendment, it does not change the current situation in our country: Abortion is legal and available, but no federal dollars can be used to pay for elective abortions or plans that include elective abortions,” the bishops said.

“This amendment does not restrict abortion, or prevent people from buying insurance covering abortion with their own funds,” they added. “It simply ensures that where federal funds are involved, people are not required to pay for other people’s abortions.”

Along with their letter, the USCCB leaders sent each senator copies of two fact sheets—one on abortion and conscience problems in the Senate health reform bill and the other detailing what the Senate amendment would do.

The letter was signed by Bishop William F. Murphy of Rockville Centre, N.Y., chairman of the USCCB Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development; Cardinal Daniel N. DiNardo of Galveston-Houston, chairman of the Committee on Pro-Life Activities; and Bishop John C. Wester of Salt Lake City, who heads the Committee on Migration.

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Bishops urge Senate to change abortion provisions in health care bill

BY NANCY FRAZIER O’BRIEN

WASHINGTON (CNS) — As a vote neared on a bipartisan abortion amendment to the Senate’s version of healthcare reform legislation, three leading U.S. bishops threw their support behind an amendment to be offered that day by Sens. Ben Nelson, D-Neb.; Orrin Hatch, R-Utah; Robert Casey, D-Pa.; and five others.

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Christmas CD benefits mother and child at Women’s Care Center

BY KAY COZAD

FORT WAYNE — “Unto Us a Child is Born,” is a festive music CD released just in time for the Christmas season. Its dual purpose, says producer Beverly Rieger, “is something I think people will enjoy and it will raise money for the Women’s Care Center,” she reports.

The nine track instrumental CD offers liturgically traditional music recorded live by Rieger, who considers herself a veteran musician and recording artist. Not only is she owner of Mayan Dream Productions, but she boasts a long history of musical service to the church, including over 37 years in parish music ministry and nine years as director of the diocesan Office of Worship.

Rieger, who is currently the director of music at St. John the Baptist Parish, felt the desire to reach out to those in need within her own community. After speaking with Father Cyril Fernandes, pastor of St. John’s, she decided to employ her musical talent to benefit the mothers and children of the Women’s Care Center.

This musical artist, currently grandmother of four, looks forward to the birth this month of two more grandchildren and readily admits to having a heart for mothers and children. And she is humbled to offer this project to support the nonprofit organization that provides assistance to women who find themselves pregnant.

Services provided there include pregnancy testing and verification, ultrasound, counseling, a 24-hour hotline, parenting classes and the Crib Club — a program that provides baby items earned by participation in parenting classes and prenatal care.

After lining up studio time, Rieger set about laying track after track of bells, piano, harpsichord, trumpet, congo drums, strings and more.

“This is a CD that you can play at home,” says Rieger, who recorded an original song, “Deep Snowy Night” that compliments traditional favorites such as “Joy to the World,” “Angels We Have Heard On High” and “Silent Night.” The stylistic tracks juxtapose reverent melodies with upbeat favorites and would provide a delightful acoustic backdrop for any holiday gathering and verification.

“It’s light, happy, joyful and warm,” says Rieger of the selections she included on the festive CD. “They’re songs that people know and love.”

Of the many hours involved in not only laying the tracks but working with the graphic designer to create the cover, printing and cutting the cover, and assembling the CDs in the cases, Rieger says, “I enjoyed it. It’s something I wanted to do for the church. It’s good to give back as a music ministry to the larger community.”

“Unto Us a Child is Born,” CD sells for $10 and is available at the Cathedral Bookstore, located downtown in the Archbishop Noll Catholic Center at 902 S. Clinton St., after all Masses during Advent at St. John the Baptist Parish and during its second annual Lessons and Carols concert.

The concert will be held at St. John’s on Dec. 13 at 5 p.m., and is a “celebration of the impending coming of Jesus,” offering lessons and carols for Advent laced with Christmas music. Those in attendance will be treated to the sounds of the adult, children’s and bell choirs as well as musicians heralding guitar, harpsichord and flute.

The “Unto Us a Child is Born,” CD is provided through the music ministry of St. John the Baptist and all profits from its sales will go directly to support the Women’s Care Center.

Next year Rieger hopes to offer a Christmas CD that will benefit a local charity with the inspired music of the talented St. John’s musicians. “I love St. John’s. They are a great group. The talent is phenomenal,” Rieger concludes.

For more on the “Unto Us a Child is Born,” CD contact Beverly Rieger at (260) 745-7663 or mayandream@gmail.com.
Catholic Charities’ Brief Services program is a lifeline in time of need

BY BONNIE ELBERSON

FORT WAYNE — The mission of Catholic Charities is straightforward — to celebrate the spirit of Jesus and foster personal dignity while serving those most in need. The agency’s work is based on biblical and theological foundations of Catholic social teaching and relies on partnerships within the community to achieve its goals.

Locally, Catholic Charities offers adoption, foster care and kinship care services, pregnancy and children’s services, Brief Services, refugee resettlement and older adult services.

Brief Services, as the name suggests, is only for temporary emergency situations. Catholic Charities offers financial assistance so clients can make rent or utility payments and gives them food vouchers, bus passes, sometimes gas cards to help them through a financial crisis.

According to case worker Phyllis Mizer, clients requesting rent assistance must call on Monday evening to make an appointment, then are seen the next week. Mizer checks their identification, determines the size of the household, whether any family members have special needs, and requires an income statement and a copy of the lease to determine eligibility.

“I try to see the whole person when assessing need, she says. Both Mizer and community services supervisor Theresa Teders speak highly of the Gift of Warmth program, which runs from February through April each year. Whenever Catholic Charities helps a client pay their heating bills, Northern Indiana Public Service Company (NIPSCO) matches that amount, up to $35,000 last year.

The utility subscribers to a policy of never turning off gas due to nonpayment during the winter months and the agency lends assistance to those who fall behind in their payments.

Brief Services also covers pregnancy needs. The agency can provide baby formula, clothing, cribs and car seats in cooperation with Women’s Care Center, as well as assistance with rent, utilities and food for families in need.

In addition, walk-in clients can request basic necessities like soap, toilettries and clothing needed for job interviews.

Funding for Catholic Charities’ activities comes from foundation grants and corporate and private donations. Last year more than 1,000 clients were served and $124,000 spent over all categories, 1,000 clients were served and $124,000 spent over all categories, but Teders admits funding is lagging this year and the agency is “struggling with donations” due to the poor economy.

Catholic Charities collaborates with other community agencies like CANI, the Salvation Army, Community Action, United Way and the Foellinger Foundation as well as the township trustees in fulfilling its mission.

Besides Brief Services, Teders offers other areas of responsibility include Hispanic health, immigration, counseling and Villa of the Woods, a local residence for the elderly, with “Christmas on the side,” she says. The agency’s case workers refer needy families to be “adopted” at Christmas time, then find sponsors who will provide gifts for them. Again, they work cooperatively with Toys for Tots, Broadway Christian Church and others in the effort. The Christmas program for 2008 served 55 families, with a total of 203 family members. This year the program will serve 44 families, says Teders.

Brief Services clients like Paula Johnson are generous in their praise of the program. Johnson and her four children moved to Fort Wayne looking for a fresh start in September 2005. She immediately found work as a certified nursing assistant but didn’t earn enough to cover all her expenses, especially a $700 heating bill she incurred that winter. She contacted Brief Services and was referred to Gift of Warmth, which paid half the outstanding bill while Catholic Charities paid the balance. Then case manager Mizer worked with her to find long-term solutions to the problem, including financial aid to attend Brown Mackie College where Johnson is currently studying to become a licensed practical nurse. “We were out of answers, and Catholic Charities was a blessing,” she says.

One young woman with three children came to the agency when she couldn’t pay her heating bill. She had been on a budget plan with $89 monthly payments until year’s end when she received a $500 catch-up bill. Even though the Gift of Warmth program hadn’t yet begun, Brief Services helped with her rent payment so she could apply that money to the heating bill.

Another Brief Services client, Arleen Robertson, moved from New Orleans to Fort Wayne with her family following Hurricane Katrina. They found a house they could afford but had nothing to furnish it. Again, Mizer worked with them until their basic needs were met.

“The people at Catholic Charities were really helpful — we appreciate everything they did for us,” says Robertson. “I love working with clients,” Mizer says simply. Teders echoes her sentiment. “The caring you have for the community” makes the job easy.

Christmas in the Cathedral


Wednesday, December 16, 2009 - 7:30 p.m.
in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in downtown Fort Wayne

All Cathedral Concerts are free and open to the public.

It’s Christmas! ...is his gift in your heart?

He doesn’t need toys.

He makes do with those he has. What he needs is comfort; the kind that comes from having a warm home, food and clothing and the feeling that things are going to be all right. You can be the one to provide that feeling by giving generously to Catholic Charities.

To donate online, visit our website http://www.ccfwsb.org and click on GIVE NOW

91% of your financial gift is for services. Only 9% is used for administration ALL DONATIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE!

Your support helps us continue to provide:

• Adoption Services • Food Pantries • Refugee Services
• Community Services • Foster/Adoptive/kinship Care • RSVP (Retire Senior Volunteer Program)
• Children’s Cottage • Care Training • Senior AIDS Employment
• Counseling Services • Immigration Services • Villa of the Woods
• ECHO (Education Creates Hope & Opportunity • Hispanic Health Advocate • Refuge Employment Services
• Pregnancy Services

Call 1(800) 686-3112

To make a tax deductible contribution make your check payable to Catholic Charities of Fort Wayne & Allen County.
Polish Franciscan Father Jerry Kraj oversees renovations inside the Church of St. Catherine in Bethlehem, West Bank, Nov. 26. The church, located within the Church of the Nativity complex, was undergoing some refurbishing before Christmas.

Archdiocese continues dialogue about same-sex marriage in D.C.

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The Washington Archdiocese vowed continued dialogue with the District of Columbia’s City Council to seek “a balance in the legislation” after the council Dec. 1 gave preliminary approval to a bill to legalize same-sex marriage. In an 11-2 vote the council passed the Religious Freedom and Civil Marriage Equality Amendment Act of 2009. A required second vote was to take place in the weeks ahead, then the bill was to be sent on to Washington Mayor Adrian Fenty, who has said he will sign it. District laws also are subject to congressional review under the Home Rule Charter. “As the legislation moves forward, the Archdiocese of Washington will continue its dialogue with the council,” Susan Gibbs, spokeswoman for the archdiocese, said in a Dec. 1 statement. As written, the current legislation would require faith-based social service providers to compromise their religious teachings and beliefs on gay marriage in order to be eligible to partner with the district government in providing social services to Washington residents. The Washington Archdiocese is morally opposed to the bill because it redefines marriage. The church’s opposition is based on the Catholic Church’s teaching that marriage is a permanent union between one man and one woman.

Play about St. John Vianney touring nation during Year for Priests

CHICAGO (CNS) — On a recent evening in Chicago, Leonardo Defilippi felt more edgy than usual. The veteran actor stood ready to perform a one-man play for future pastors, confessors, chaplains and bishops. His task was to bring one of the church’s most ardent parish priests to life for an auditorium packed with seminarists of St. John Vianney. The next day, he did the same for more than 400 Chicago priests. It’s all for his portrayal in “Vianney,” in which he plays the French country priest who in the early 19th century instilled an apathetic town with the desire to live the Gospel. Before the Year for Priests ends in mid-2010, Defilippi will have performed his new play all over the nation. In November, he staged it for the U.S. bishops gathered in Baltimore for their annual fall general assembly and he might do the play at the Vatican for Pope Benedict XVI. “You want to do this right because it’s kind of an awesome responsibility,” said the actor, 57-year-old member of Holy Rosary Parish in Portland. Defilippi is known locally for plays and films in which he has played Jesus as well as saints Francis of Assisi, John of the Cross, Augustine and Maximilian Kolbe.

Ambassador’s anti-human trafficking efforts guided by Vatican II call

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A bit of the Second Vatican Council is influencing at least one segment of the Washington government scene these days. Ambassador Luis CdeBaca, a New Mexico-born Catholic of Mexican descent, who runs the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons at the State Department, readily acknowledges that the council’s call to Catholics to engage the world guided his decision to become a civil rights lawyer and eventually to proselytize some of the country’s largest human trafficking cases. That call is especially meaningful, he told Catholic News Service, now that he heads the country’s top office that works to disrupt the criminal networks that promote modern-day slavery and human abuse. CdeBaca, 42, called himself “a Vatican II baby.” “It was very interesting to me,” he said, “especially coming out of law school as a young civil rights lawyer, to really start digging deeper and to realize that Vatican II, if you looked at ‘Gaudium et Spes’ (the council’s Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World) and ... (understand) the real concrete church in the world type of things, wow.” Since becoming ambassador in May, CdeBaca has met with dozens of officials worldwide in the fight against human trafficking. On Dec. 2 he embarked on his most recent trip, this one to Asia to bring governments together in a widening anti-trafficking campaign.

Priests are to be compassionate, not judgmental, papal preacher says

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Priests are not called to judge others, but to bring God’s saving grace, his love and compassion to the world, said the preacher of the papal liturgy Dec. 4 that St. John’s Gospel recalls, “God did not send his son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him.” Priests, who are continuing Christ’s work on earth, are asked to adopt this outlook toward all people: “Do not judge, but save” them, the papal preacher said. Offering an Advent meditation during the Year for Priests, Father Cantalamessa dedicated his reflection to the role of priests. Again citing St. John’s Gospel, the preacher said God loved the world so much, he gave his only son “so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but have eternal life.” Priests are called to this mission and offer people “a sympathy, a sense of solidarity, and compassion,” he said.

First U.S. ambassador to Vatican dies at age 95

CARMEL, Calif. (CNS) — The first U.S. ambassador to the Vatican, William A. Wilson, died Dec. 5 at his home in Carmel. He was 95 and had been ill with cancer, his family reported. Wilson was a longtime friend and political adviser to President Ronald Reagan when he named the president’s personal envoy to the Vatican in 1981. Three years later, when Congress repeated an 1867 law prohibiting the president from appointing a diplomat with religious convictions to the Holy See, Wilson’s position was elevated to that of ambassador. He served in the post until May 1986, when he resigned to return to private life. Wilson was a Los Angeles native who stepped into his father’s oil tool business in 1938, eventually managing it. When it was sold in 1955. His business interests subsequently involved Southern California real estate interests, as well as the United States and Mexico and roles on the corporate boards of companies including Pennzoil.
Fort Wayne Area Ruggers join together for movie and good cause

FORT WAYNE — The local Fort Wayne area rugby teams have united together for a showing of “Invictus.” The movie stars Matt Damon and Morgan Freeman, and is directed by Clint Eastwood. It not only the story of the South African Rugby World Cup victory in 1995 — the first global sporting event that South Africa could participate in with the end of Apartheid — but it is also a testament of the character and leadership of Nelson Mandela and the courage of the Springbok captain, Francois Pienaar.

The Carmike Theater on Dupont and Diebold roads have been rented for Sunday, Dec. 13. The doors open at 10:30 a.m. and the movie starts at 11 a.m. There will be a brief presentation before the movie.

The cost is $5.75 per person. The theater will seat 250 people. Ruggers and rugby fans are encouraged to wear their respective rugby team jerseys. The annual Polar Bear game will be held directly after the game at Memorial Park. This is a friendly match of players from Fort Wayne or near Fort Wayne between the Black and the Blue.

Those interested in attending are encouraged to bring canned or boxed food to donate to the local charities.

USF Feeds the Fort a resounding success

FORT WAYNE — In an effort to help replenish area food pantries and soup kitchens, University of Saint Francis students, faculty and staff launched a massive effort in November to collect food and funds. The campaign used many means to encourage others to donate: Collection bins were set up around campus, discounts were offered on tickets to the fall productions of “All Shook Up” in return for food donations, and students and faculty went door to door.

In the end they collected 11,952 pounds of food and $7,849 in cash for Community Harvest Food Bank. The Associated Churches and St. Mary’s Soup Kitchen also received donations from the drive.

Rick Cartwright, dean of the School of Creative Arts, directed the effort. “We had a successful response from the campus community to the collection of food and monetary donations,” Cartwright noted. “The university is very pleased to have been able to make the holidays better for our neighbors who needed help this year.”

“I can’t believe their success,” said Jane Avery, executive director of Community Harvest Food Bank. “These totals are amazing. They worked so hard, I hope the students, faculty and staff are proud of their efforts. I know I am. This will make a big difference! Thanks also to Five Star Distributing and Stan Zihler for helping us haul the huge load of food back to Community Harvest.”

For more information, contact Rick Cartwright at (260) 399-7700, ext. 8015 or cartwright@sf.edu or Claudia Johnson, Community Harvest Food Bank communications and advocacy manager, at (260) 447-3696, ext. 311; (260) 433-2913 or cjohnson@feedingamerica.org.

The University of Saint Francis, founded in 1800, is a comprehensive university in the Catholic Franciscan tradition, offering undergraduate and graduate programs to more than 2,100 students.

Community Harvest Food Bank of Northeast Indiana, Inc. is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to the alleviation of hunger through the full use of donated food and other resources. As the largest food bank in northeast Indiana, it collects and distributes over 11 million pounds of donated, surplus food annually through a network of human service member agencies. These agencies offer assistance to hungry people, acting as a safety net to ensure that everyone receives their daily bread with dignity.

Knights of Columbus hold pitch in

HUNTINGTON — Huntington Knights of Columbus Council 1014 will hold its annual “Pitch-In” campaign on Saturday, Dec. 12, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., with roadblocks set up in three locations throughout the city.

In the 33-year history of “Pitch-In,” the Knights have raised more than $200,000 to help Huntington County residents in need. Money raised by the Knights of Columbus from various means, including roadblocks, is administered by Love, Inc., a multi-denominational nonprofit organization.

One hundred percent of the donations help people who have a temporary need and no other source available to attain assistance. Funds have been used to pay for medical expenses, trips to medical facilities, utility bills, food, etc. No money is given directly to the person in need but is sent by Love, Inc. to the service provider.

All work on the “Pitch-in” annual campaign is donated by Council 1014 Knights of Columbus members and their families.

St. Charles Borromeo students give back to the community

FORT WAYNE — The fourth-grade class of St. Charles Borromeo School is the recipient of the 2009 Association of Fundraising Professionals’ Outstanding Youth in Philanthropy award, in recognition for fund-raising efforts over the past 11 years for Turnstone Center for Children and Adults with Disabilities.

Turnstone is a nonprofit that provides services for children and parents with physical disabilities.

The students carried out a read-a-thon, collecting pledge money from the community and donating the contributions to the agency. Over the past eight years, the school has raised more than $20,000 in total, according to fourth-grade teacher Jill Witte.

Eleven years later, the school has further developed its relationship with Turnstone. “The past few years we have taken a field trip to Turnstone so the kids can see what goes on there and they get a tour of the building,” Witte said. “They also have us do some activities to show what it would be like with different disabilities.”

A group from Turnstone comes to St. Charles to demonstrate how the monies benefit the agency. Money of the funds raised are used for the Adaptive Sports program. The program, which includes wheelchair basketball, wheelchair tennis, power soccer and other adaptive sports, helps build self-esteem, independence and provides an avenue for relationship building among family, friends and clients.

“They learn so much from that day and then we also have a time where they come out and the kids can answer questions,” Witte said. “I think the most important thing they learn is that people with disabilities are the same as they are and they can do the same things too. A lot of our kids do not know as many people with physical disabilities and it is nice for them to get to know someone who uses a wheelchair and they can become more comfortable (around them).”

Indeed this project challenges the students to look at the world in a different way. “I also think it is important to teach kids to give back to a young age because we are so blessed with so many things that we tend to forget how blessed we actually are,” Witte said. “It is nice to see all of their faces after they have read for 100 minutes and they realize that they did that for someone else.”

The fourth-grade teachers accepted the award on the behalf of the fourth-grade class at a ceremony Nov. 12.

Living Healthier session: Impact on Wellness

FORT WAYNE — The School of Health Sciences at the University of Saint Francis will host the final event in this year’s Living Healthier Series, Impact on Wellness, on Wednesday, Dec. 16 at 6:30 p.m. at the North Campus, 2702 Spring St. Session leader Jane Avery, executive director of Community Harvest Food Bank of Northeast Indiana, Inc., will discuss the physical and emotional effects of hunger on all ages as well as social problems that have hunger or food insecurity as a primary factor.

Healthy snacks will be served at 6 p.m. Admission is a nonrefundable food item that will be donated to the Community Harvest Food Bank.

Sacred Heart School rings bell for Salvation Army

WARSAW — This Christmas season, the Sacred Heart School students, staff and parent volunteers rang the Salvation Army’s red kettle carols at the Center Street Owens Supermarket over the course of three days, Dec. 2, 3 and 4.

Volunteer teams were assembled in the school’s student family groups, where one representative from each grade level was present for each half hour shift.
St. Anthony, Angola, parishioners gather for service with living stones

ANGOLA — The church is months from completion but hundreds of St. Anthony parishioners joined together Sunday in the shell of their new church to become part of the brick and mortar. As the sun poured through the openings on the south wall facing Maumee Street people young and old brought stones to the front of the church and placed them in the space that will soon support the altar of their new church.

“Our parish family has sacrificed so much to make this dream a reality that we wanted to provide them a way to be a physical part of the structure. We could think of no greater way to honor them than to have a stone representing their family be part of the cement structure which will support our altar for generations to come” said Marilyn Karpinski, organizer of the service.

Many came to the altar with tears in their eyes placing stones representing loved ones who were no longer here but would now be represented. Children brought hand-decorated stones. Many others brought stones gathered on vacations to places of special significance.

John Peters was not present but had a fellow parishioner place a large quartz crystal in the structure that he has carried with him through many moves, including college. “It’s finally found a home” said Peters.

“The stones are as unique as the people” said Karpinski. “We are the living stones that make up God’s church.”

“Oh, wow!” was the comment heard over and over again as parishioners entered the building for the first time. A bride whose wedding will be one of the first celebrated in the new church investigated the bride/choir room. Members considering baptism into the Catholic Church at the Easter Vigil noted the placement of the baptismal font, which will include an immersion pool.

Father Fred Pasche, pastor, stated he never had the desire to build a church but admitted “this is exciting.” But the most common feeling among the parishioners was joy and thanksgiving for the bounty of God’s blessings.

Conventual Father Frederick Pasche blesses the stones in the future site of the new church’s altar at St. Anthony, Angola.

Knights Help Development Center

Mike Lintner, president and CEO of the Marshall-Starke Development Center (third from right) accepts a check for $2,000 from Rick Tompos, Grand Knight of the Culver based St. Mary of the Lake Council #13720 Knights of Columbus. The funds, Lintner told the Knights, will be used to purchase handicapped accessible doors for the center’s Plymouth facility. In thanking the group, Lintner said Marshall-Starke employs 193 people and serves about 250 adults with disabilities, 140 of them daily and the remainder in the center’s employment program. The Center also serves 182 children aged 3 to 5 in the Head Start program. Pictured above, from left, are Jim Cointer and Joe Stambolija, St. Mary’s pastor Father Tad Balinda, Pat McCaffery, Rick Tompos, Terry Kelsey, Mike Lintner, Chris Sayer and Bob Budzius.

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this part of the chapel as the sanctuary. While the altar, ambo, presider’s chair and the rug represent a link to SJRMC’s presence in its new facility, the tabernacle and statue of the Blessed Mother represent the hospital’s tie to its past.

The statue of the Blessed Mother is made of solid wood and is one piece with the exception of her hands held open in front of her body (the hands therefore are removable). The statue was used outside for many years and its condition had deteriorated. The statue has been carefully refurbished and is on display in the new chapel. Although the chapel has been designated Our Lady of Fatima, the statue of the Blessed Mother is Our Lady of Grace (Our Lady of Fatima has her hands folded holding a rosary).

The tabernacle was moved from the hospital’s South Bend location to its new facility, completing the transition and tying together the past and present.

One of the cornerstones of the new chapel is the San Damiano cross, which is suspended over the altar. According to the Franciscans’ Web site, the San Damiano cross is the one St. Francis of Assisi was praying before when he received the commission from the Lord to rebuild the church. The crucifix contains the story of Christ’s death, Resurrection and Ascension into glory.

Our Lady of Fatima Chapel is part of SJRMC’s Spiritual Center, which includes two separate rooms for people of other faith backgrounds to use for prayer. Surrounding the outside of the chapel is a garden area, which completes the healing atmosphere of body and mind at the new hospital.

Bishop John M. D’Arcy delivers his homily during the blessing of the Our Lady of Fatima Chapel at the dedication of the new Saint Joseph Regional Medical Center in Mishawaka.
**BY KAREN CLIFFORD**

MISHAWAKA — With large spa-cious windows, generously sized bathrooms, flat screen televisions, bamboo doors, a large atrium with an ATM and a sizable dining facility with a walkout terrace, a picture of a luxury hotel comes to mind.

Instead, these areas all can be found in the new Saint Joseph Regional Medical Center (SJRMC) in Mishawaka. With 254 private rooms, the 658,000-square foot facility was designed with input from doctors, nurses and caregivers before construction began in March 2007.

Mike Stack, public relations manager for SJRMC, says that everything in the new hospital is designed for the safety and comfort of the patient. The windows in the patient’s rooms are 20 percent larger than in the old facility in South Bend. Other large windows adorn each floor of the facility to promote a soothing transition in the healing process.

Each patient room is 289 square feet and has a 32-inch high definition flat screen television. Patient privacy is factored into the room layout, Stack notes. “The curtain track is a lot further away from the bed because the room does not want to create a feeling of being claustrophobic. The beds are situated when you walk in the corridor so you can’t see the patient’s head.”

The large bathrooms are handicap accessible with a shower and can accommodate wheelchairs and patients hooked up to IV’s. With a decrease of space from the bed to the bathroom, there is less chance of slipping and falling.

“We understand that no one wants to be sick and be in the hospital so we tried to make something as close to home as possible. We also wanted to make the care as safe and efficient as possible,” Stack emphasizes.

The emotional recovery for patients and their families has also been addressed at the new hospital. Immediate family members may visit the patient 24 hours a day. In addition to the hospital’s new chapel, chaplains are available around the clock for prayer with the patients and their families.

“Saint Joseph has always prided itself on being the hospital with a compassionate component to it. On the fifth and sixth floors we have rooms that are called patient family suites with fold out couches. On the one side it is set up like a regular patient room but adjoined to that is a suite where basically it serves multi-purposes,” he notes. “If a dignitary stayed in town their staff could have a suite area. Or if we have a terminally ill patient and the family wants to be around at all times they can certainly be in there.”

SJRMC will continue its tradition of providing health care for all, regardless of the ability to pay, as set by the Sisters of the Holy Cross in 1883.

In addition to patient needs, the hospital was designed to be more efficient for the healthcare providers. Each room is designated as same handed, a John Hopkins protocol, that rather than having left and right mirrored rooms, all patient rooms are identical.

The sink is on the left in each room. According to Stack, the first thing a caregiver does is wash their hands and go to the bedside to work with the patient. “The concept is that standardization and repetition decreases the chance for error. That way the caregiver, when they go from one room to another, does not have to reacclimate themselves,” he says.

Higher ceilings throughout the hospital keep the patient from feeling enclosed and keep doctors who work in oncology, orthopedics and cardiology from hitting their heads on overhead equipment during surgery.

The new hospital takes pride in its emphasis on its green guideline.

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**A statue of St. Joseph is situated by the main guest elevators.**
Sisters’ healing mission endures as new hospital opens

BY SISTER MARGIE LAVONIS, CSC

MISHAWAKA — The healthcare ministry of the Sisters of the Holy Cross has deep roots. Its beginnings trace back to the Civil War when 80 out of 165 members of the community responded to the governor’s call for religious women to tend to the sick and wounded soldiers from both the North and the South. Although they were not trained nurses, they responded immediately to relieve the suffering in any way they could.

Four of the sisters were the first women nurses on board the Red Rover, a U.S. Navy hospital ship, and are considered the forerunners of today’s Navy Nurse Corps.

In 1867, two years after the war was over, the community founded a permanent hospital in Cairo, Ill. When St. Joseph Parish, On the Hill, as it was called, grew out of its church in South Bend, and began planning for a new one, the Sisters of the Holy Cross saw a great need for healthcare services and took the initiative to establish the city’s first hospital there. This was characteristic of the community that was founded to read the signs of the times and meet crucial needs.

After the parishioners moved into their new church around 1881, the sisters purchased the building and property for $15,000. Holy Cross Father Edward Sorin, founder of the University of Notre Dame, signed the deed on Aug. 14, 1882. The old church was transformed into Saint Joseph Hospital and, within a very short time, the sisters were ready to accept their first patients.

Many people of that time were leery of hospitals, its only support came from the University of Notre Dame, which donated a horse and buggy that served as an ambulance and a truck.

The first floor’s amenities included a large windowed atrium, a business center and a credit union. The main dining room has a walkout terrace for dining, and wireless Internet access is available throughout the building.

With the continued influx of the aging baby boomer generation, SJRMC can evaluate the need for additional patient rooms in the future.

“About 85 percent of the outside of the building is brick, but on the southwest corner of the facility near the emergency room there is material that is easier to remove for future expansion of another patient tower. We have made sure we left a footprint there for the future.”

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The Sisters of the Holy Cross congratulate Saint Joseph Regional Medical Center on the opening of its new facility. Since its founding by the sisters in 1882, Saint Joseph’s has consistently fulfilled its mission of providing excellent health services to those in need of care.

We are grateful for the ministry of Saint Joseph Regional Medical Center and for the compassionate people who serve there, bringing health and healing to our community.

Our prayers are with you as you continue your healing mission in your new building.

Shown is a section of the San Damiano Cross which hangs above the altar at the Our Lady of Fatima Chapel.
Congratulations to our health care partner for the past 90 years, St. Joseph Regional Medical Center

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Area seniors making a real difference through RSVP

BY MARY KINDER

AUBURN — Giving of yourself — your time and talents — has long been a cornerstone of the Catholic Church. This honored tenet is fully realized in northern Indiana through Catholic Charities’ Retired and Senior Volunteer Program, or RSVP. The long-standing program brings together area seniors who want to give back to their communities and a long list of agencies who desperately need volunteers. The result is a match made in heaven.

RSVP, also known as Senior Corps, is America’s largest volunteer network for people age 55 and over. The nationwide program boasts over 500,000 volunteers across the country who are tackling tough issues in their communities.

Catholic Charities sponsors the northern Indiana Retired Senior Volunteer Program through the Corporation for National and Community Service. The RSVP office in Angola serves DeKalb, LaGrange, Noble and Steuben counties, while St. Joseph and Elkhart counties are served by a RSVP office in South Bend. The Auburn bureau has close to 900 RSVP office in South Bend. The nationwide program boasts over 500,000 volunteers across the country who are tackling tough issues in their communities.

Catholic Charities sponsors the northern Indiana Retired Senior Volunteer Program through the Corporation for National and Community Service. The RSVP office in Angola serves DeKalb, LaGrange, Noble and Steuben counties, while St. Joseph and Elkhart counties are served by a RSVP office in South Bend. The Auburn bureau has close to 900 volunteers who generously give their time and talents to 120 different sites throughout the community, including hospitals, schools, nursing homes, parks and other nonprofit entities.

Patti Sheppard, Senior Corps supervisor in Auburn, has been with the organization for nearly 30 years. She loves her job and explains one of the reasons she’s stayed with it, “I am so fortunate to work with people who want to make their community a better place to live.”

She goes on to say, “To give of yourself freely like our volunteers do is simply amazing.”

In addition to the 120 volunteer sites, RSVP of Auburn also hosts a number of programs within its building, including the Community Center of Caring Food Pantry. Now in its fifth year, the food pantry works to put food on the table of hungry individuals and families throughout DeKalb County. In 2008, RSVP helped get food to 4,150 families which translates into more than 14,400 individuals.

What RSVP gives back to the community doesn’t end there. The Auburn office also works to screen children for amblyopia, commonly known as “lazy eye.” The condition can be easily treated if diagnosed early in life, usually by the age of three. Otherwise, it can permanently impair vision. RSVP volunteers have been trained as screeners, traveling to area preschools, day care or community events to test children for free.

The Gift of Warmth program is another worthwhile volunteering effort carried out by RSVP in Auburn. Coats, hats, mittens and scarves, many of them handmade by Senior Corps volunteers, are collected for people in need. Many of these items go to the homeless, who may otherwise not have any protection against cold weather. Last year, working in conjunction with local factories, The Gift of Warmth distributed between 1,200 and 1,500 coats.

Other programs carried out at the Auburn office range from filling backpacks for underprivileged students each school year to disaster preparedness training provided by the Office of Homeland Security and the Red Cross.

Away from the RSVP office, you can find volunteers throughout the community. “Our volunteers are at so many different places — anywhere there is a need, really,” says Sheppard. One of those places is Auburn’s popular World War II Victory Museum where volunteers give tours and serve as guides.

“We are lucky to have some World War II and Korean War veterans placed at the museum,” explains Sheppard. “It’s a great opportunity for them to share their unique perspective — a perspective that won’t be around forever.”

Although RSVP is designed for people aged 55 and older, anyone who is interested can join. Sheppard says her office’s oldest volunteer is 95, although she’s had two volunteers reach the age of 101. She sees the Senior Corps as a way for older members of the community to remain active and vibrant. “RSVP gives people a way to make friends, get out of the house and connect with the community. It’s also a great way for seniors to share their wonderful wealth of knowledge.”

One of the major strengths of the program is its flexibility, letting the participants choose where and when they want to volunteer and how involved they want to be. Some volunteers help at several locations while others stick to one site or program for long periods of time. In addition, individuals are placed at site based on their interests and skills. Often, volunteers choose to remain in fields they’ve worked at for years, such as retired teachers signing on to tutor struggling students. However, any necessary training is provided by the placement sites, so volunteers also have the option of getting involved in something completely new to them.

For anyone interested in volunteering for RSVP, the process is simple. If you live in any of the six counties, including DeKalb, LaGrange, Noble, Steuben, St. Joseph and Elkhart, contact either the Auburn or South Bend office. The next step is filling out a simple registration form. Finally, RSVP will call you to discuss your interests, talents and schedule. “It’s very easy to get involved,” says Sheppard, “and there’s always a need out there that has to be met.”

If you are interested in joining the Retired Senior Volunteer Program, contact the Auburn or South Bend office and tell them the reason you would like to join the Senior Corps. In Auburn call (260) 925-0917 or in South Bend call (260) 414-2814.

Hispanic Health Advocacy serves increasing Latino population

BY LAUREN CAGGIANO

FORT WAYNE — As a non-English speaker, navigating through an English-speaking world can present a world of challenges. However, these people are not alone, thanks to the efforts of the Hispanic Health Advocacy program offered through Catholic Charities.

The Hispanic outreach program is designed to aid a population in northeast Indiana that considers Spanish their primary language. Catholic Charities case workers interpret and translate the entire conversation between the care provider and the client. Above all, the case worker is there to act as an advocate for the client when they need it the most. Sometimes this task is easier to do than others, according to Catholic Charities Case Manager Corina Hurtado. At times Hurtado must be the bearer of bad news, like telling a woman she has cancer or her baby is deathly ill.

“You just gotta be there for the client,” she said, “You can see the pain they’re going through.”

However, there are some happier times, she noted. Guiding women through prenatal and preventative care can be particularly fulfilling. At all times, respect is the core value. That is, “us being respectful to (the client) and them respectful to us,” Hurtado explained.

The program is a short-term service designed “to help (clients) develop skills along the way,” said Catholic Charities Community Supervisor Theresa Teders. Ultimately Catholic Charities hopes the client will become self-sufficient and no longer need the services. In the event the client wants further help, the agency can refer him or her to English classes. Hurtado said she has seen several success stories along the way, including a woman who once spoke broken English and is now well spoken.

Clients, who are usually low-income, are referred through doctors, churches, schools, clinics, social service agencies and by word-of-mouth. Often times they are new to Fort Wayne and unaware of its social service programs. Those served range in age from unborn babies to elderly.

And there certainly is no shortage of referrals. The Hispanic population in northeastern Indiana is on the rise and does not show much sign of slowing down. “The more our community changes, the higher the need,” Teders said.

As the demand increases, so does the need for funding. Those interested in supporting the cause can designate a gift for Hispanic Health.

Catholic Charities accepts referrals and appointments by phone. Contact Corina Hurtado at (260) 422-5625, ext. 288.
Stem-cell ethics and the things we refuse to do …

Many well-intentioned pro-lifers have inadvertently adopted flawed or incomplete arguments while trying to defend the noblest of causes: the right of the unborn to life. In the debate over stem cells, for example, a common and easily refutable argument is this:

Human embryonic stem-cell research is wrong because we are witnessing new medical treatments and cures for diseases that embryonic stem cells fail to produce. The argument is based on a false premise: that there is a one-to-one correlation between the kind of cells that have been grown in a petri dish and the kind of treatments those cells will provide in a human body.

This is not the case. Stem cells are capable of developing into many different types of tissue and organs, and their potential applications are vast. Just because embryonic stem cells have not yet been used to treat a particular disease does not mean that they cannot be used in the future.

The ethical debate surrounding embryonic stem-cell research is complex and multifaceted, and there are valid arguments on both sides. However, we must remember that the ultimate goal of any research is to improve the quality of life for all humans, and that means finding cures for diseases and conditions that currently have no known treatments.

There are alternative sources of stem cells that can be used for research, such as adult stem cells, which are already found in the body and can be harvested without causing harm to the individual. These sources are ethically preferable to embryonic stem cells and should be explored as an option.

In conclusion, while we should be cautious about the use of embryonic stem cells, we should also be open to the possibility of their potential benefits and the ethical considerations surrounding their use.

Father Tadeusz Pacholczyk, Ph.D.

Making Sense of Bioethics

Other humans, whether young and embryonic or old and in their dotage, is properly referred to as an intrinsic evil, meaning it is in every instance wrong, and ought never be chosen as a human act.

Intrinsic evils do not admit of any legitimate exceptions. Once we concretely recognize the immaterial character of an action prohibited by a human law, we must conform our actions to the moral law and turn away from the action which it forbids.

Bioethicist Paul Ramsey put it well in suggesting that any man of serious conscience, when discussing ethics, will have to conclude that, “there may be some things that men should not do. The good things that men do can be made complete only by the things they refuse to do.”

Refusing to destroy human embryos as a scientist does not imply any opposition to science itself, but only to unethical science, which, like unethical investment practices or unethical medicine, is invariably harmful to society. Good science is necessarily ethical science; it cannot ever be reduced merely to “efficient science,” that which might work or “solve my problems” at the expense of others. In arguing for ethical science, those of us working to safeguard human life would do well to examine our premises carefully, so as to avoid weak or questionable assumptions that could undermine the thrust of our arguments.

Father Tadeusz Pacholczyk, Ph.D. is a priest of the diocese of Fall River, Mass., and serves as the director of education at The National Catholic Bioethics Center in Philadelphia.

Series begins on Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades

Last week, Today’s Catholic editor Tim Johnson and diocesan communications director Vince LaBarbera interviewed Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades. The story in this week’s paper is the first in a series to help acquaint readers with our new bishop who will be installed Wednesday, Jan. 13.

Today’s Catholic welcomes letters from readers. All letters must be signed and include a phone number and address for verification.

Today’s Catholic reserves the right to edit for clarity and length. Address letters to: Today’s Catholic • P.O. Box 11169 • Fort Wayne, IN • 46856-1169 or e-mail to: editor@fw diocecesweb.org
Not so secret: New book features 105 documents from Vatican archives

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — With millions of documents filling almost 53 miles of shelf space, the Vatican Secret Archives obviously still hold some secrets.

Despite the aura of mystery surrounding the archives, the Vatican actually encourages academicians to research its holdings and has worked with a Belgian publishing house to bring 105 of the most important, or curious, documents to the public.


Cardinal Raffaele Farina, the Vatican archivist, wrote in the introduction that he knows popular books and movies love to imply that he knows popular What is the Apostolic Succession?

5. Who was the apostle to the Gentiles?

8. The term “Apostolic Fathers” is often used on these men.

9. The term apostle is also used of prominent missionaries. In this context, who was the apostle to (of) Ireland?

11. What was a separated church that called itself The Catholic Apostolic Church?

12. A document called the “Apostolic Church Order” purporting to be from the early church, containing similar words to those in the book, has worked with a Belgian publishing house to bring this effort. This weekend’s reading is Lk 3:10-18

3rd Sunday in Advent Lk 3:10-18

An atmosphere of delighted expectation overtakes this weekend’s liturgy. It is “Guadete Sunday,” a name taken from the Latin rendition of the first word of the Entrance Antiphon, “To rejoice.” The Lord is near!

Priests may opt to wear rose vestments. These vestments symbolize that the brightness of the Lord’s coming already is crossing the horizon more properly, it is the third Sunday of Advent. The Book of Zephaniah furnishes the first reading. It is a short book, one of the brief chapters. Little is known about this prophet. Much, however, is known. Zephaniah was the son of Chusi and traced his ancestry to Hezekiah, presumably King Hezekiah of Judah.

Evidently, the book was written between 640 B.C. and 639 B.C., or during the reign of King Josiah of Judah. Josiah was a reformer, and his reforms were religious in intent and in impact. The kings saw themselves as representatives and agents of God. Aside from all these, their duty was to draw the people more closely to God. When the people are faithful to God, they bring peace and prosperity upon themselves.

Zephaniah, obviously, supported this effort. This weekend’s reading is an exuberant and bold exclamation of joy. The Epistle to the Philippians provides the second reading. Philippi was a city, in what today is Greece, founded centuries before Christ and named in honor King Philip, the father of Alexander the Great.

By the time of the first century A.D., it was an important center in the Roman Empire, and it was important as a military base. Such centers often became the sites of Christian communities, as there was much movement of people through the empire. People moved to and fro, bringing their ideas and values, such as Christianity.

As was the reading from Zephaniah, this reading is filled with excitement and joy. The coming of the Lord is predicted, and it will be soon. Such was the assumption of many of the early Christians. When Jesus would come again, all wrongs would be righted. Evil would be defeated. To prepare, Christians should conform themselves as much as possible and in every respect to the Lord. The epistle proclaims that this holy transformation has occurred. Delightedly declares that the Christians of Philippi are unselfish. St. Luke’s Gospel is the source of the last reading. In this reading, John the Baptist appears, urging that the people repent and believe the good news about the coming of the Messiah. The Baptist’s message is complete darkness. The sunbeams of hope and peace will pierce the blackest of moments. Jesus, the messiah, came — and comes to us — as the Light of the World.

Readings

Sunday: Zep 3:1-4, 18a (Ps) Is 32:1-6 Phl 4:4-7 Lk 3:10-18

Monday: Nm 24:4-7, 15-17a Ps 25a:9 Mt 21:12-27

Tuesday: Zep 3:1-2, 9-13 Ps 34:2-3, 6-7, 17-19, 21 Mt 21:28-32

Wednesday: Is 45:6c-8, 18, 21c-25 Ps 85:9-14 Lk 7:18b-23

Thursday: Gn 49:2-8, 10 Ps 72:1-4, 7-8, 17 Mt 1:1-17

Friday: Jer 23:5-8 Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19 Mt 1:18-25

Saturday: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a Ps 71:3-6, 16-17 Lk 1:1-25

ANSWERS:

1. a. Jewish, probably related to the verb “to send”

2. b. Latin, related to the adjective for holy

3. c. Aramaic, related to the term anointed

4. a. Orthodox

5. a. Eastern

6. a. Rome

7. a. Eastern

8. a. Greek

9. a. Greek

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Who was Cornelius, the first Gentile convert?

The story of Cornelius is found in the Acts of the Apostles in the New Testament. Cornelius was a Roman centurion in command of the Italian cohort stationed in the city of Caesarea in Israel. Caesarea was the Roman military headquarters in Israel. Thus the Roman procuratorPontius Pilate, who crucified Jesus, was stationed at Caesarea.

Caesarea, on the Mediterranean Sea, was also in important seaport from which ships sailed to Rome. Cornelius, as well as his household, was religious and generous. Father J. McKenzie says Cornelius was a proselyte who accepted the Jewish law but did not become a full member of the Jewish community by circumcision.

An angel appeared to Cornelius and told him to send men to Joppa in Israel to bring St. Peter. St. Peter, other famous people had been connecting with Cornelius. St. Philip, in the Acts of the Apostles, preached the Gospel in Caesarea. St. Paul was imprisoned in Caesarea for two years. Here Paul had his dramatic trial before the governor Festus, King Herod Agrippa and his wife Bernice. From Caesarea, St. Paul embarked for trial in Rome.

The historian Procopius was the Roman military headquar ters in Caesarea. The next day St. Peter at Joppa had a vision of a large canvas filled with animals, reptiles and birds. A voice said “slaughter and eat.” St. Peter replied he could not eat anything unclean. The voice responded: “What God has purified, you are not to call unclean.”

Peter eventually realizes he is to admit Gentiles into the Christian community. So Peter went to Caesarea to meet Cornelius who dropped to his knees and bowed low before Peter. Peter then baptized Cornelius, the first Gentile convert.

K. Prag says that at Caesarea are the ruins of the 12th century cathedral Church of St. Peter. The apses and part of the west wall survive. The cathedral had three apses with sanctuaries, three aisles of five bays, a floor, and was by tradition located on the site of the house of Cornelius who was baptized by St. Peter.

Besides St. Peter, other famous people had been connecting with Caesarea. St. Philip, in the Acts of the Apostles, preached the Gospel in Caesarea. St. Paul was imprisoned in Caesarea for two years. Here Paul had his dramatic trial before the governor Festus, King Herod Agrippa and his wife Bernice. From Caesarea, St. Paul embarked for trial in Rome.

G. Freeborn says a church council was held at Caesarea in 195 A.D. that ordered Easter to be kept on a Sunday. The famous theologian Origen of Alexandria in Egypt (d. 254 A.D.) taught in Caesarea and founded his library. Origen was succeeded by his pupil Eusebius, who was succeeded by the famous Eusebius, the father of church history. As an archbishop, Eusebius consecrated the Roman emperor Constantine’s Basilica of the Holy Sepulcher in Jerusalem.

George Weigel is a senior fellow of the Ethics and Public Policy Center in Washington, D.C.

The historian Procopius was born in Caesarea c. 500 A.D. We should note that Caesarea in Israel is a different city than Caesarea in Turkey where we find the famous St. Basil, an early father of the church. This Caesarea is modern Karsyi, a large Moslem city.

R. Ullian mentions a number of sites in Caesarea in Israel. The beautiful Roman theater, capable of seating 5,000 spectators, was constructed in the time of Jesus and Pontius Pilate, with the Mediterranean Sea as a backdrop. There is also a tunned hippodrome seating 20,000 people. The magnificent aqueduct is almost six miles in length. The Rail Museum at Caesarea includes sculptures of Dali and Rodin. You can enter Crusader City on a bridge across a deep moat, then through a gatehouse with Gothic vaulting. The city is a large fortified town.

Then there is the Port of Sebastos extending from Crusader City into the sea. King Herod the Great’s harbor at Caesarea was one of the largest harbors of the ancient Roman world.

Father Richard Hire, pastor of St. Martin de Porres Parish, Syracuse

Willful blindness and Fort Hood

Dan Henninger, whose Wall Street Journal column is aptly titled “Wonder Land,” put it best: “The only good news about the Fort Hood massacre is that U.S. electronic surveillance technology was able to pick up Major Hasan’s phone calls to an al Qaeda-loving imam in Yemen. The bad news is that the people and agencies listening to Hasan didn’t know what to do about it. Other than nothing.”

Here in Washington, D.C. — where strategists are already game-planning What-Happens-After-the-Next-9/11 — one can only wonder whether any such happenings will be preceded by other missed warnings. Missed, not because the intelligence hardware is deficient, but because the programming of the software, meaning the analysts, filters out anything that smacks of distorted religious conviction.

In the eight years and three months since 9/11, the U.S. government has willfully turned a blind eye to the Islamist roots of the war against jihadism. The Bush administration was reluctant to name things for what they were, and are, in this clash of civilizations. Barack Obama administration seems to believe that appeasing the homicidal culture of victimhood that has warped the Arab Islamic world for decades — and that has now reared its head on a U.S. Army base — is more urgent than calling spades spades.

Perhaps the most obvious expression of this myopia is the instinct to warn the American people against overreaction, rather than to name jihadism for what it is. That instinct was deployed prior to the immediate aftermath of the Fort Hood massacre, when Secretary of Home and Security Janet Napolitano raised the alarm, not about jihadism, but about possible violence against Muslims by outraged Americans. Query to Secretary Napolitano: The overwhelming majority of victims of jihadist terrorism around the world are Muslims — like those little Afghani girls who want to learn how to read and have acid poured on their faces by Taliban thugs. Isn’t identifying the sources of crimes like this, and like Fort Hood, more important than politically correct posturing about American yahoos going bonkers and conducting anti-Muslim crusades in these United States?

When my small book, Faith, Reason, and the War Against Jihadism, was first published in early 2008, it was read as samizdat — underground literature — at the State Department, the Defense Department and the Central Intelligence Agency — or so I’m told by friends and colleagues. Evidently, even a primer on the war against jihadism that stressed the imperative of serious, sustained interreligious dialogue was too controversial for career civil servants to be seen reading, because the book also described the ways in which had theology had led to lethal politics.

“Faith, Reason, and the War Against Jihadism” has now been issued in paperback. In a new afterword, I stress two points: That our security remaining threatened by our government’s institutional refusal to take the religious roots of jihadism seriously; and that Pope Benedict XVI has pointed the way to new and potentially more fruitful Christian-Islamic dialogue by displaying and displacing any sur conversation focus on the hard questions — religious freedom as a fundamental human right, and the separation of religious and political authority in a just state. We’ll see if the paperback shares the same samizdat fate as the hardback in the corridors of power.

Father Raymond de Souza, the Canadian columnist, identified another aspect of willful blindness in the aftermath of Fort Hood. Noting the disinclination among English-speaking opinion merchants to connect the dots between extremist Islam and Fort Hood, Father de Souza reminded his readers of the double standard at work here: for when late-term abortionist George Tiller was murdered in June, many of those same columnists immediately opined that the murderer was a “logical extension” of the pro-life movement.

That slander was quickly falsified when the mainstream pro-life movement immediately and publicly condemned Tiller’s murder. We’ll know that a corner has been turned when, after the next Fort Hood, the immediate, public reaction of Muslims and non-Muslims alike is an unequivocal assertion that crying “Allahu akbar!” (God is Great) while spraying bullets at innocents is a profanation of the name of God.

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Scripture Search

Gospel for December 13, 2009

Luke 3:10-18

Following is a word search based on the Gospel reading for the Third Sunday of Advent, Cycle C, the teachings and warnings of John the Baptist. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.


**BDHS STUNT GROUP TAKES STATE**

A Bishop Dwenger stunt group consisting of five varsity cheerleaders was selected by the Indiana State Cheerleading Association to compete in the state finals in New Castle on Nov. 7. Only five groups were chosen from over 75 entries submitted to the state for consideration.

These girls then competed and were crowned the State Champion Stunt Group for 2009. In the photo are, front, from left, Leah Helmer and Jordan Potosky, top row, Alana Richardson, Morgan Eifert and Katie Dillon.

**ICCL launches winter basketball season**

**BY JOE KOZINSKI**

**SOUTH BEND-MISHAWAKA** — The Inter-City Catholic League kicked off its 2009 campaign with divisional play at both Mishawaka Marian High School and Saint Joseph's High School.

In the St. John Bosco East Division the St. Anthony Panthers opened up a lead and finished off the St. Matthew Blazers, 40-13. In the other matchup, led by Paul Byszewski’s 15-point effort, the St. Joseph, South Bend, Eagles stopped an aggressive attack by St. Thomas the Apostle, 44-33.

In action from the St. John Bosco West Division, both Pat Conner and Wesley Short dropped in 10 at the Holy Cross Crusaders dashed the victory hopes of the Holy Family Trojans, 46-21. Chris the King also added a win to their record by defeating Corpus Christi thanks to an 11-point effort of Keaton Wieschhaus.

The St. Martin DePorres Division battled at Marian High School and saw a big day by Our Lady of Hungary’s Dominicque Sanders as he dropped in 28 points in their victory over Queen of Peace, 40-31. The Falcons of St. Jude faced off against a tough opponent in the St. Monica Comets as they prevailed, 32-29. Matt Henry scored 17 in the win and Chris Coulter paced St. Monica with 16. The final contest pitted two veteran squads; St. Pius X vs. the St. Joseph, Mishawaka, Wildcats. Michael Markris had 14 points as the Wildcats triumphed, 29-26.

Action for all teams will continue on Sunday, Dec. 13. Schedules can be found on the ICCL Web site at www.icclsports.org.

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**TWO USF SENIORS NAMED TO ALL-MCC VOLLEYBALL TEAM**

University of Saint Francis seniors Shellie Rushing and Chelsie Hill have been named to the 2009 Mid-Central College Conference All-Conference team. Rushing, a Bishop Luers High School graduate, finished in the MCC top five in hitting percentage, kills per set (game) and blocks per set. She finished No. 2 in hitting percentage at .355, No. 3 in blocks per set (1.0) and No. 4 in kills per set (3.5). She is a 4-time All-MCC selection, first team the last three seasons, second-team as a freshman in 2006.

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**Patient Squires take preseason tourney**

**BY MICHELLE CASTLEMAN**

FORT WAYNE — Patience may pay off for the Hessen Cassel Squires girls’ basketball program and play a key role in their success. A year ago, Coach Amy Knapek added a few sixth graders to have enough numbers to bring a varsity team back at Hessen Cassel after years without.

“We were young and at a new level,” explained Knapek of her 2008-2009 team. The team took some beatings during the season, but did manage to finish runner-up in their Blue League tournament.

This year, however, may be a different story. The Squires made a strong statement at the preseason showcase taking first place honors in the Queen of Angels Invitational. In their in their Blue League tournament.

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In early bracket play, Hessen Cassel beat Precious Blood then Memorial Park, 22-20. This sent the Squires ahead to stay 29-27 in the championship game.

Poore has been coaching this team since they were fifth graders and is in his fourth season at St. Jude. His assistants are Mark Mugg, Ron Palmer and Mark Stoner. Poore feels his team has good size overall and are strong defensively. Because most of the kids have played together for several years now, Poore believes the Eagles will have a strong showing in the CYO Gold League.

St. Vincent has been the obvious power the past three years,” explained Poore. But with the big changes that come between the seventh- and eighth-grade years, Poore hopes to be a threat this season.

Other medal winners in the tournament were Hessen Cassel third and St. Charles fourth.

Scores below were reported as CYO action kicked off on Saturday, Dec. 5, 2009:

**Boys**

St. Jude 50, Most Precious Blood 35
St. Therese 21, Decatur-7 31
St. Aloysius 30, St. Louis-St. Rose 14
Hessen Cassel 35, Most Precious Blood 18
Queen of Angels-8 16, Decatur-8 29

**Girls**

Hessen Cassel 26, Most Precious Blood 4
St. Therese 38, Huntington 5
St. Aloysius 14, St. Therese 37
FORT WAYNE — St. Joseph-St. Elizabeth School first graders, their parents and teachers sponsored “Cookies for Christ,” an annual stewardship and educational project for St. Joseph-St. Elizabeth School first graders. The cookie sale took place from Dec. 1-3.

First graders and their parents baked dozens of Christmas cookies at home, bag them individually in ziplock bags and sold them to the St. Joseph-St. Elizabeth School community for 25 cents each. The first graders also helped make posters to advertise “Cookies for Christ.”

The first graders took a field trip in early November to Ellison Bakery to see how cookies are made in a cookie factory. Ellison Bakery also donated dozens of its cookies for the “Cookies for Christ” sale days. Because the cookies were sold during school hours, first-grade parents helped sell the “Cookies for Christ” cookies to all the St. Joseph-St. Elizabeth School students at both campuses.

All proceeds from the “Cookies for Christ” sale go to the Sunshine Club of St. Joseph-St. Elizabeth School. The Sunshine Club started at St. Joseph Parish on Brooklyn Avenue and now helps members of the Fort Wayne community, as well as families of St. Joseph and St. Elizabeth Seton parishes who are in need during the holidays.

“Cookies for Christ instills the idea of giving of our time and talent early,” said first-grade teacher Molly Slocum. “Cookies for Christ has become a great tradition of charitable giving for our first graders at St. Joseph-St. Elizabeth School.”

“Cookies for Christ is a fabulous project for the first graders at St. Joseph-St. Elizabeth School,” agrees first-grade teacher Julie Peters. “The proceeds from the project go directly to the Sunshine Club of St. Joseph’s and St. Elizabeth’s parishes to benefit the needy. The kids have a great feeling about being able to help so many people just by making, selling and buying cookies. And cookies are one of their favorite things to eat!”

Joanne Krudop, recently retired after 43 years of teaching and the first-grade teacher who started “Cookies for Christ” 12 years ago, came in to talk to the first graders in November. When asked about the name “Cookies for Christ,” Krudop told the first graders, “Jesus used his hands and feet to heal and help people. Now that Jesus is in heaven, he wants us to be his hands and feet.”

Last December, the St. Joseph-St. Elizabeth School first graders raised $680 with their “Cookies for Christ” sale, which was also donated to the Sunshine Club.

A St. Joseph-St. Elizabeth first grader shows off her Cookies for Christ.
WHAT’S HAPPENING?

WHAT’S HAPPENING carries announcements about upcoming events in the diocese. Send in your announcement at least two weeks prior to the event. Mail to: Today’s Catholic, P.O. Box 11169, Fort Wayne 46856; or e-mail: ftagan@fw.diocecesefwsb.org. Events that require an admission charge or payment to participate will receive one free listing. For additional listings of that event, please call our advertising sales staff at (260) 456-2824 to purchase space.

MISC. HAPPENINGS

Help from all councils needed
Fort Wayne — The Knights of Columbus Council 13142 will sponsor an Angel Tree at St. Henry Church Saturday, Dec. 19, at 1 p.m. Volunteers are needed from all councils to provide gifts, music, food or funds for the children of inmates in prison. Call Mark at (260) 622-4042 for more information.

Christmas concert announced
Fort Wayne — Most Precious Blood Church, 1515 Barthold St., will present a Christmas Concert Sunday, Dec. 27, at 7 p.m. in the church with Jim Didier, choir director and Kathy Schall, bell choir director. Admission is free.

Living Nativity
Fort Wayne — The children of St. Therese Parish will perform “Follow the Star” a living Nativity on Saturday, Dec. 12, at 7 p.m. at the church, 2304 Lower Huntington Rd. Christmas music will be sung and live animals will be on hand. Some walking is required. Refreshments will follow in the parish hall.

XII planned at St. Elizabeth
Fort Wayne — A night of worship for youth or the young at heart will be at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 30, at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church. Praise music by Frankie and the Holy Rollers, adoration and Father Drew Curry will preside.

Breakfast with Santa
Mishawaka — St. Joseph Church will have breakfast with Santa Sunday, Dec. 13, from 10:30 a.m. until 2 p.m. Pancakes, sausage, hot chocolate, juice and coffee will be offered. Visit with Santa Claus and receive a small gift and a treat. $4 per person. For information call Camp Fire USA at (574) 234-4145.

National Society of Foresters plan Christmas party
Fort Wayne — The St. Antoinette Court 870 of the National Society of Foresters will have a Christmas potluck dinner Sunday, Dec. 13, from noon to 5 p.m. in the Sacred Heart school basement. For information call Pedro Heredia at (260) 447-2357.

Lessons and Carols at St. John the Baptist
Fort Wayne — Lessons and Carols, a concert of Christmas and Advent music and lessons from sacred Scripture, will be presented by the choirs and instrumentalists of St. John the Baptist Parish on Sunday, Dec. 13, at 5 p.m. The church is located at 4525 Arlington Ave.

Bishop Luers Christmas concert
Fort Wayne — The Bishop Luers Performing Arts Department will present a Christmas concert Monday, Dec. 14, at 7 p.m. in the Bishop Luers gymnasium.

FUND RAISERS

Pancakes with Santa
Fort Wayne — The St. Charles Athletic Association will have a pancake and sausage breakfast with Santa on Sunday, Dec. 13, from 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the school cafeteria. (Door #9) The cost is $4 per adult, $3 per child 12 and under or $15 for the entire family. All proceeds go to the Athletic Association.

Cookie Walk
Plymouth — A cookie walk will be Saturday, Dec. 12, from 8 a.m. to noon in the school cafeteria of St. Michael Church. The cost is $4 per lb. and is sponsored by Altar Rosary Society.

Cookie Walk
Mishawaka — A cookie walk will be Saturday, Dec. 12, from 9 a.m. to noon in the lower level of St. Monica Church. The cost is $4 per lb. and is sponsored by Rosary Society.

Knights plan spaghetti dinner
South Bend — The Knights of Columbus Council 5521, 61533 S. Ironwood Dr., will have a spaghetti dinner on Friday, Dec. 18, from 5 to 7 p.m. Adults $7, children (5-12) $3. Carry-out available.

Knights plan breakfast
Granger — The St. Pius X Knights will have a breakfast Sunday, Dec. 13 after the 8:45 and 10:30 Masses.

Scholarship/placement exam held
Fort Wayne — All eighth-grade students interested in attending Bishop Luers High School can take the exam on Dec. 12 at the high school. Cost is $10. A total of $10,000 dollars in scholarships will be awarded by the Henry-Keefar Scholarship Fund.

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Advent vespers
Mishawaka — Father Daniel Scheidt will lead sung vespers on all the Sundays of Advent at 5 p.m. at Queen of Peace Church.

Associate Superintendent of Catholic Schools • Fort Wayne, Indiana

The Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend seeks applicants for the position of Associate Superintendent of Catholic Schools
(Deadline for applications: December 17, 2009)

Necessary qualifications include:
• Strong and Proven Commitment to Catholic Identity
• Indiana School Administrator’s License
• Five Years Catholic School Administrative Experience; Principal or Assistant
• Ability to Organize Effectively
• Ability and Desire to Assist Principals & Administrators
• Ability and Desire to Build Strong Catholic Schools throughout the Parish

For Information & Application, Contact Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend
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BISHOP JOHN M. D’ARCY

As the shepherd of our diocese turns to a much deserved retirement and the next phase of his holy priesthood, Today’s Catholic offers our readers an opportunity to convey expressions of thanks and best wishes to this dedicated servant who has led us for the past 24 years.

PLACE YOUR NAME ON A FULL PAGE TRIBUTE TO BISHOP D’ARCY IN A “BISHOP’S FAREWELL” ON JANUARY 3, 2010
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  Cost: $848.00

For information on how to place your ad, please call:

South Bend area:
Jeanette Simon (574) 234-0687
email: jnttsimon@aol.com

DEADLINE
December 16, 2009

Fort Wayne area:
Tess Steffen (260) 399-1457
gmail: Sales@diocesefwsb.org
Kathy Denice (260) 399-1452
gmail: Kdenice@todayscatholicnews.org

Join others in expressing a warm welcome to
BISHOP KEVIN RHOADES

as he becomes the ninth bishop of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend.

Today’s Catholic offers our readers an opportunity to convey expressions of prayerful best wishes and friendship to the new shepherd of our diocese.

DEADLINE
December 23, 2009

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Fort Wayne area:
Tess Steffen (260) 399-1457
gmail: Sales@diocesefwsb.org
Kathy Denice (260) 399-1452
gmail: Kdenice@todayscatholicnews.org

Th January 10, 2010 issue of Today’s Catholic will include a special pull-out section with a glossy cover and full coverage of the installation ceremonies of Bishop Rhoades at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, presided by Archbishop Daniel M. Buechlein with many bishops, priests, and dignitaries in attendance.

Individual ads are also available...sizes and prices are shown here. Ads are black and white. For color, add $150.00

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